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The Expansion of New England: the Spread of New England Settlement and Institutions to the Mississippi River, 1620-1865. By LOIS KIMBALL MATHEWS, Instructor in History in Vassar College. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1909. Pp. xiv, 303.)

THIS study attempts "to untangle, from the complex skein of our national history, the one strand of the New England element", or in other words "to ascertain roughly what part New England has played as a frontier-maker;—how she has founded towns and institutions not only within her own borders, but far beyond the Hudson and the Alleghanies" (p. 9).

The first part of the work is an admirable description of the movement from the New England sea-coast to the interior. There are chapters on the beginnings of an American frontier, from 1620; the influence of Indian warfare upon the frontier, 1660-1713; the forty years of strife with the wilderness, 1713-1754; and events on the frontier, 1754-1781. These chapters are interesting and instructive. The research is thorough and the maps appear to be constructed on a sound principle (appendix A).

The second part deals with the movement of New Englanders into the West. Here is treated the beginning of the great migrations, 1781-1812, and the settlement of the Old Northwest, to about 1860. The final chapter sums up what the author conceives to be the results of two centuries and a half of New England pioneering. This part of the book is not so well done and it is doubtful if it adds much to what was already known of the general features of New England settlement in the West and New England influences in respect to education and local government.

The maps for the movement into the West are open to criticism and they may be said to illustrate the inconclusiveness of the second part of the book. The legend on these maps is (yellow) New England Settlement and (gray) All Other Settlement, but the author evidently does not intend that the markings shall be taken literally. It is doubtless the intention to show that there was some New England settlement in the portions colored yellow and the question naturally arises as to the extent of that settlement and the relation it bears to other settlement in numbers and influence. On the map showing New England settlement east of the Mississippi River before 1860 (frontispiece) the district about Cairo, Illinois, is colored yellow. The text tells us that south of Springfield, Illinois, only "a stray Connecticut or Massachusetts pioneer might be found", and the marking in this case appears to be based on the fact that one of the founders of Cairo was born in Hartford, Connecticut (p. 215, and n. 2). The northern counties of Illinois are shown as "New England settlement" and the text (p. 215) states that "the fourteen northern counties . . . were settled solidly by emigrants from

the states east of the Hudson River or from New York itself." It should be noted, however, that the foreign-born population of the five northern counties adjacent to Chicago was, in 1860, over sixty-eight per cent. of the whole. Southeastern Michigan is colored solidly yellow notwithstanding the fact that in 1860 the foreign population of four southeastern counties about Detroit was fifty-two per cent. of the entire population. For nine counties in the same part of the state the foreign population was thirty-three per cent.

This is enough to show that while the maps may be suggestive they cannot be taken literally. They do not appear to be worked out on the basis of a unit, such as the county, and the information they purport to furnish is, therefore, too general to be valuable. It is evident that the areas marked New England Settlement are not occupied exclusively by New Englanders, and it is probable, on the other hand, that New Englanders settled in places not indicated on the maps. As the maps now stand they tend to exaggerate the New England element in the Old Northwest, and they show how difficult it is to untangle the New England strand from the "complex skein of our national history".

Selections from the Economic History of the United States, 1765-1860. With Introductory Essays by GUY STEVENS CALLENDER, Professor of Political Economy in the Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University. (Boston and New York: Ginn and Company. 1909. Pp. xviii, 819.)

IN the present volume Professor Callender has provided a convenient body of collateral reading, mostly from contemporary writers, which will help to a better understanding of our social and political development than the ordinary source-book of charters and laws. Especial value is given the volume by the editor's own comments, which preface each chapter of selections. For the historian those chapters will be of the greatest interest in which the relation of economic affairs to politics is traced.

"The influence of economic conditions upon our political affairs", writes Professor Callender, "has been enormous, and no correct understanding of American politics is possible without taking it into consideration" (p. v). This influence, he thinks, has not been given due importance by historians. "The true causal relation between the action of government and economic conditions is often reversed in the historical account. The latter are supposed to be the result of the action or non-action of government, when in reality they have been determined by other forces, and have had great influence in determining political action itself. This is an error that is the more likely to appear in American history, because the writers of it make large use of public documents and the utterances of public men, who are always interested in making the government receive the credit, or bear the blame, for